

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process for producing rice flour, ~~which comprises the steps of~~ comprising:
 - (a) soaking material rice grains in water;
 - (b) crushing the soaked rice grains after draining the water from the soaked rice grains;
 - (c) penetrating α,α -trehalose or maltitol into the crushed rice grains,
by spraying an aqueous solution containing α,α -trehalose or maltitol in an amount of 3-20% (w/w) to the weight of said material raw rice grains, or
by dredging a powdery α,α -trehalose or maltitol in an amount of 3-20% (w/w) to the weight of said material raw rice grains;
 - (d) partially drying the resulting rice grains containing α,α -trehalose or maltitol to give a moisture content of 14-25% (w/w); and
 - (e) milling the partially dried rice grains to produce a rice flour.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said material rice grains are raw rice grains selected from the group consisting of unpolished, polished, and sprouted rice grains.

3. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the crushing step is for cracking said unpolished rice grains or ~~roughly~~ crushing said polished rice grains.

Claims 4-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, which further comprises ~~contains a step of sieving the~~ rice flour to give an average particle size of 30-80 μm .

Claims 8-20. (Cancelled)